(a) whether it is a fact that some public/semi-public institutes and services have been privatised;

(b) whether there was provision of reservation to SC/ST and Backward Classes in the services of such institutes before privatisation; and

(c) if so, the status of this provision of reservation after privatisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Development of Tsunami affected towns

4409. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by Government for development of small and medium towns affected by the Tsunami in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) whether the development work has been completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. RAGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The Government of India has set up a Core Group on Reconstruction, Management and monitoring for Tsunami affected areas in the Planning Commission. The Core Group has prepared a comprehensive plan for rehabilitation and reconstruction for the Tsunami affected States/UTs, which includes construction of dwelling units with proper town planning and provision for civic amenities. The complete package will be announced after the recommendations of the Core Group are approved by the Government.

Earthquake-prone cities

4410. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have already identified 38 cities of our country as quake-prone, out of which 10 cities are in extreme danger,

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what are Government's plans to save the cities from possible quake effect; and

(c) whether any guidelines has been laid down for the construction of earthquake proof buildings in such cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) An accelerated Urban Earthquake Vulnerability Reduction Project has been taken up as a pilot project under the GOI-UNDP Disaster Risk Management Programme. The project covers 38 cities falling in seismic zones III, IV & V and having a population of more than five lakhs. The project aims at strengthening the capacity of communities, urban local bodies and administration for undertaking earthquake mitigation, preparedness and response measures. Of the 38 cities, 8 cities are in Zone IV (high risk) and 2 cities in Zone V (very high risk). The key components of the project are awareness generation, formulation of preparedness and response plan at the city level and community levels, establishment of a techno-legal regime to promote safe construction, training and capacity building of professionals and disaster management teams. Besides this pilot project, the Government has taken several steps to reduce the vulnerability of earthquake prone areas. These include preparation of model building byelaws and regulations for the guidance of States to ensure seismically safe construction, emphasis on retrofitting of lifeline buildings, capacity building of engineers and architects in seismically resistant designs and constructions.

(c) The Bureau of Indian Standards codes for earthquake resistant constructions are already in existence. A bilingual Earthquake Prepardness Guide in English and Hindi has been prepared on the basis of existing codes and good building practices and circulated to the State Governments for translation in regional languages and its dissemination among the people.

Establishment of Calamity Management Centre

4411. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state: